

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 9 (Canceled).

10 (Currently amended). A method comprising:

selecting a bone for treatment having cortical bone enclosing a cancellous bone volume;

~~providing a cannula sized and configured to establish a path into bone, the cannula including a side wall defining an internal bore aligned along an axis, a distal region, an opening in the side wall, the opening extending partially about the side wall and being elongated along the axis and having a distal terminus, and a bone engaging structure surface on the distal region of the cannula spaced, at least in part, distally of the distal terminus of the opening to anchor the distal region in cortical bone;~~

~~inserting~~ introducing the cannula distal region first into cancellous the bone;

placing the bone engaging structure into engagement with an interior surface of the cortical bone to anchor the distal region in cortical bone;

inserting an expandable structure through the internal bore of the cannula into registration with the opening; and

expanding the expandable structure from within the internal bore through the opening in the side wall into contact with cancellous bone.

11 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 10, wherein expanding the expandable structure compacts cancellous bone.

12 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 10, wherein expanding the expandable structure forms a cavity in cancellous bone.

13 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 12 and further including ~~conveying~~ flowing a volume of filling material into the cavity.

14 to 16 (Canceled)

17 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:

selecting a bone for treatment having cortical bone enclosing a cancellous bone volume;

~~providing a cannula sized and configured to establish a path into bone, the cannula including a side wall defining an internal bore aligned along an axis, a distal region, a distal opening in the distal region communicating with the internal bore to accommodate passage of a guide pin, and an opening in the side wall extending partially about the side wall and being elongated along the axis;~~

introducing a guide pin into the bone;

~~inserting~~ introducing the cannula distal region first into ~~cancellous~~ the bone by passing the guide pin through the distal opening and the bore;

withdrawing the guide pin;

inserting an expandable structure through the internal bore of the cannula into registration with the opening; and

expanding the expandable structure from within the internal bore through the opening in the side wall into contact with cancellous bone.

18 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 17, wherein expanding the expandable structure compacts cancellous bone.

19 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 17, wherein expanding the expandable structure forms a cavity in cancellous bone.

20 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 19, and further including ~~conveying~~ flowing a volume of filling material into the cavity.

21 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:

selecting a bone for treatment having cortical bone enclosing a cancellous bone volume;

providing a cannula ~~sized and configured to establish a path into bone, the cannula~~ including a side wall defining an internal bore aligned along an axis, a distal end, and an opening in the side wall, the opening extending partially about the side wall and being elongated along the axis and including a distal terminus, the internal bore terminating at the distal terminus;

~~inserting~~ introducing the cannula distal region first into ~~cancellous~~ the bone;

inserting an expandable structure through the internal bore of the cannula into registration with the opening; ~~and~~

expanding the expandable structure from within the internal bore through the opening in the side wall into contact with cancellous bone to form a cavity in cancellous bone; and

flowing a volume of filling material into the cavity.

22 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 21, wherein expanding the expandable structure compacts cancellous bone.

23 and 24 (Cancelled).